

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable storage device operable to provide system configuration information to a system unit, the storage device including a circuit, a circuit interface and an opening at an edge of the device, the opening being configured to be engaged by a restraint when the device is located at a device reading station for retaining the device at the device reading station.  
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2. The device of claim 1, wherein the circuit interface comprises circuit contacts.  
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3. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a system configuration card.
4. The device of claim 3, wherein the opening comprises a notch in the edge of the card.  
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5. A portable storage device, comprising a configuration card for providing system configuration information to a system unit, the card including a notch in one edge of the card, the notch being configured to be engaged by a restraint when located in a card reading station for securing the card in the card reading station.  
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6. The device of claim 5, wherein the card is rectangular, having two shorter edges at opposite ends of the card and two longer edges at opposite sides of the card, the notch being provided in one of the shorter edges.
- 25 7. The device of claim 6, wherein the circuit interface comprises circuit contacts located towards one of the shorter edges at one end of the card, the notch being formed in the shorter edge at the other end of the card.
8. A reading station for reading a portable storage device operable to provide system configuration information to a system unit, the storage device including  
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a circuit, a circuit interface and an opening at an edge of the device, the reading station comprising a device receiver configured to receive the device and a device reader operable to interface with the circuit interface when the device is received by the device receiver, the device receiver further being configured to enable a restraint to engage the opening in the device to retain the device at the reading station.

9. The reading station of claim 8, wherein the device receiver comprises a formation defining a passage configured to receive the portable storage device.

10 10. The reading station of claim 9, wherein the passage is slot-shaped so as to receive a portable storage device in the form of a system configuration card.

15 11. A reading station for reading a portable storage device in the form of a system configuration card, the reading station comprising a device receiver defining a slot for receiving the card, and a device reader including card reader contacts for contacting the circuit contacts on the card wherein the card reader contacts are located so as to contact the circuit contacts on the card when the card is received within the slot, the device receiver further being configured to enable a restraint to engage the notch in the card for securing the card in the device reading station when the card is received within the slot.

20 25 12. The reading station of claim 11, wherein the device receiver comprises a formation including a protuberance, the slot comprising a passage with a slit-shaped cross section that is open at one end of the protuberance and passes through the protuberance in the direction of the device reader.

13. The reading station of claim 9, wherein a hole is formed in the formation, which hole passes between opposite surfaces of the formation and through the passage

at a position corresponding to that occupied by the opening in the device when the device is received at a reading position in the reading station.

14. The reading station of claim 13, further comprising a restraint that is manually insertable through the hole to engage the opening in the device, thereby retaining the device in the reading station.

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15. The reading station of claim 14, wherein the restraint is a padlock.

10 16. The reading station of claim 14, wherein the restraint is a cable tie.

17. The reading station of claim 14, wherein the restraint is a wire with a seal.

15 18. The reading station of claim 9, wherein the device receiver is mountable in a wall of a system unit.

19. The reading station of claim 18, wherein the device receiver comprises a first portion of larger cross-sectional area that defines a protuberance to project from the wall and a second portion of smaller cross-sectional area to be received within an aperture in the wall, the passage passing through both portions of the device receiver to define a through passage that passes though the wall of the system unit.

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20. The reading station of claim 19, wherein the second portion of smaller cross-sectional area includes wedge-shaped detents configured, for mounting of the device receiver in the aperture in the wall, to pass through the aperture in the wall and to latch behind the wall when the device receiver is fully inserted.

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21. A device receiver mountable in a wall, the device receiver comprising a formation having a first portion of larger cross-sectional area that defines a

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protuberance to project from the wall, a second portion of smaller cross-sectional area to be received within the aperture in the wall, and a passage that passes through both portions to define a passage through the wall, the first portion further comprising a hole formed in the protuberance, which hole passes between opposite surfaces of the protuberance and traverses the passage for receiving a restraint to engage an opening in a device when the device is received in the device receiver for retaining the device therein.

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22. The device receiver of claim 21, wherein the second portion of smaller cross-sectional area includes wedge-shaped detents configured, for mounting of the device receiver in the aperture, to pass through the aperture in the wall of the system unit and to latch behind the wall when the device receiver is fully inserted.

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15 23. The device receiver of claim 21, wherein the passage is slot-shaped so as to receive a portable storage device in the form of a system configuration card.

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24. A computer system comprising a reading station for reading a portable storage device operable to provide system configuration information to the computer system, the storage device including a circuit, a circuit interface and an opening at an edge of the device, the reading station comprising a device receiver configured to receive the device and a device reader operable to interface with the circuit interface when the device is received by the device receiver, the device receiver further being configured to enable a restraint to engage the opening in the device to retain the device at the reading station.

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25. A method of securing a portable storage device operable to provide system configuration information to a system unit in a reading station in the system unit, the method comprising:

- providing a portable storage device that includes a circuit, a circuit interface and an opening at an edge of the device;
- inserting the device in a device receiving passage in a device receiver until the circuit interface interfaces with a device reader; and
- engaging a restraint with the opening to secure the device in the reading station.

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26. The method of claim 25, wherein a hole in the device receiver aligns with the opening when the circuit interface interfaces with the device reader, the method further including manually engaging the restraint with the opening in the device.

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27. The method of claim 26, wherein the circuit interface comprises circuit contacts.
28. The method of claim 25, wherein the device is a system configuration card.

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29. The method of claim 25, wherein the opening comprises a notch in the edge of the device.